

# DiWINEtaste

Wine Culture and Information

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## We Are All Sommeliers

There was a time when finding someone having a sommelier qualification or title was quite rare. Today, on the contrary, finding someone who is not a sommelier is a very difficult event. No matter the reason, whoever you ask, wherever you go or regardless of who you hang out with, it is very likely to find at least one person who has a sommelier title. Moreover, today there are several dozen associations, *schools* and *courses* which can issue, in various ways and cases, the prestigious qualification of sommelier. In this regard, there are solutions for all tastes, possibilities and ambitions, you can become a sommelier even in a very short time, including achieving qualifications of increasing levels which can promise the knowledge of the most hidden and untold secrets about wine and more. It is not difficult, in fact, during a conversation about wine, at the apex of the discussion, to be told that your interlocutor holds the title of first, second, third, fourth or supreme level of absolute sommelier, sometimes also having a black belt in wine.

A clarification that, in the intentions of the interlocutor, should silence any controversy because of the fact he – or she – knows everything for the fact of being a certified sommelier, therefore having a supreme and enlightened acquaintance of any topic related to wine. Moreover, even friends or relatives of sommeliers or presumed sommeliers boast the privilege of such influential relationships, convinced of possessing – who knows for what transitive property – the enological omniscience. In the midst of a conversation, they cut off the discussion and say “I have a friend who is a sommelier”, pronounced with pompous air and emphasis, trusting to stifle any and possible reply, as if to say “you don’t know who I am”. Sommeliers are everywhere and we are all sommeliers in some way. Not to mention, because of the common habit of ridicule that many like, convinced that, as soon as they come to the knowledge of the fact “one plus one equals two”, they believe themselves to be math geniuses.

The sad and disappointing thing is that, often, indeed, very of-

ten, these qualified figures, holders of various certificates, hardly know what a sommelier is, what are the skills and the knowledge a sommelier should possess, at least for a minimum. They introduce themselves as experts in the *sommellerie* – without even knowing exactly what it is – and they usually turn out to be even unable to correctly uncork a bottle of sparkling wine, not to mention a table wine, with desolating skills about sensorial tasting, in the best case of notional type because someone told them that “it is so”. If you then ask them why, for example, certain wines are served in a specific way, at a certain temperature, they have no idea of the reasons, neither technical nor practical. They have hardly tasted a few dozen wines, but for them, evidently, they represent all the wines of the world, a sum of past, present and future wine knowledge. After all, they are sommeliers, since someone made them believe it somehow.

I need to make a necessary clarification: in every country in the world where there is an enological cultural tradition – and in particular in France and Italy, where the *sommellerie* undeniably has a solid and significant history – there are competent and serious associations capable of proficiently train a sommelier. It is also however true there is a high number of *schools*, *courses* and *associations* that use the term *sommelier* with embarrassing ease. They even boast of being “wine ambassadors”, when they obviously know very little about wine. This is undeniably the result of our times, in which we must give the illusion to anyone that achieving a result – whatever it is – it just takes a little effort, the little that must be within everyone’s reach. Everything must be easy and fun, everything *politically correct*, everyone must be able to arrogate the right to be an expert simply because they exist or have the right to express their opinions. Unfortunately, this reflects what happens in our society in general: everything must be easy, everything must be achieved without the least effort, merit or commitment. Undeniably, it is also the result of the

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growing culture of the “smart” and superficiality which prevail over honesty and real merit.

Sommelier is a French word of unequivocal Latin origin. The authoritative *Académie Française* defines *sommelier* as «one who in a community, in a house, takes care of linen, dishes, bread, wine and spirits», adding then, in a “modern meaning”, that «sommelier is said above all to the one who, in a restaurant, takes care of the cellar». The modern meaning of the term *sommelier*, in fact, is very far from its original meaning. According to the Larousse dictionary «in the Middle Ages [the sommelier was] the officer in charge of transporting, on pack animals or horses, the luggage of a prince or a gentleman» and «officer in charge of setting the table and preparing the wines». The Le Robert dictionary, as regards the origin of the term, reports that sommelier «derives from *summularius*, in turn derived from *summula* diminutive of *summa*». Sommelier therefore derives from old French and, more precisely, from Provençal *saumalier*, that is “conductor of pack animals”, in turn derived from “sauma”. This latter term is of Latin derivation, precisely *sagma*, that is, “pack”. Originally, therefore, the sommelier was the “conductor of pack animals”.

The sommelier acquires its modern meaning – that is of cellar and wine manager – at the beginning of the 1800s, however it should be noted that a similar figure was already well known and common, especially in Italy, with the term *cupbearer*, a figure widely known in ancient times and who had the task of pouring wine into the cups of rich banqueters. The cupbearer is then followed by the *bottigliere* (Italian for “bottle manager”), who also had the task of managing the cellar and its supply, at the service of rich nobles. However, it is the term sommelier to become common all over Europe, and today this is how the professional figure in charge of the service of wine and spirits is defined, as well as the management of the cellar and the bottles stored inside. In short, the sommelier is also a manager and administrator of the cellar, especially in a restaurant. He or she also has skills in sensorial tasting of wine, its service and pairing with food, as well as having solid knowledge of ampelography and enography. To clarify further, a wine taster, with real or presumed skills in this non-trivial discipline, is not a sommelier.

I often read about courses, associations and schools for som-

meliers, where – after having closely look at their educational programs – they hardly deal with providing the basic rudiments of sensorial tasting. Lessons dedicated to the service of wine and to the management of the cellar, totally absent. In many cases, these are “courses” of a few lessons, each dedicated to a specific style of wine and its “tasting”, at the end of which the participants can triumphantly define themselves as *sommelier* to anyone. This would suggest, not least, the real sommelier is only the one who works in a restaurant with this qualification. My personal experience, unfortunately, makes me think this is not always the case. I can certainly tell there are restaurants – very few, in truth – in which work trained, competent and capable sommeliers, however in most cases, it is depressing to see how embarrassing their preparation is, including wine service. If we then look at the wine lists of many restaurants – whose composition and compilation is up to the sommelier – it is embarrassing to see their incompleteness and inaccuracy. Nevertheless, they put their sommellerie membership badge pinned on their jackets on display, not least, the presence of the sommelier is even announced at the entrance of the restaurant.

As it commonly happens, the fact of having obtained a diploma or certificate does not give the actual capability or competence in a particular discipline or subject. Both are achieved much later in time – by choice, determination and will – through study, practice, perseverance, talent, attitude, tenacity and having proficiently used both time and resources. Having tasted a few glasses of wine in the confusion of the tables of a class or school, having clumsily uncorked – on the same occasion – a few bottles of wine, having basic notions on the subjects necessary for the knowledge of wine and spirits, are not enough to make a sommelier. Not to mention the “sommeliers” who obtain a certificate at the end of a course of a few lessons, all focused on the brief introduction to sensorial tasting. Because it must be said that today, very often, for sommelier it is usually intended someone who, after having put his or her nose in a glass of wine, tells, more or less, something that can impress the ignorance of the listener. The sommelier, however, is something else. And, please, learn how to correctly uncork bottles and serve wine. If this is not the case, introduce yourself as a “wine lover who perhaps knows something about sensorial tasting”. Being a sommelier and *sommellerie* are truly something else.

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## Contrasts of Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore and Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore

Two interesting wines, significant representatives of their lands, produced with equally representative grapes of Trentino-Alto Adige and Sardinia, rich in personality and character.

This month's tasting by contrast compares two very different and distant grapes and wines. Not only from a geographical point of view – the two wines are produced in Trentino-Alto Adige and Sardinia – but also from the ampelographic and sensorial point of view. Both regions offer a wide range of grapes and wines, often produced with native varieties, all characterized by strong personality and character. The ampelographic heritage of these two regions is rich in both white and red grape varieties and, although here are also found the so-called *international* grapes, particularly in Trentino-Alto Adige, the identity of the autochthonous varieties of the two territories is well represented in their wines. In this month's tasting by contrast we are going to examine native red varieties of Trentino-Alto Adige and Sardinia. In fact, in our glasses we will pour wines produced in these regions belonging to territories with *Denominazione d'Origine Controllata* (Controlled Denomination of Origin, DOC) specifically, Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore for Trentino-Alto Adige, Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore for Sardinia.

The wines of Lago di Caldaro appellation are produced, in accordance with its production disciplinary, with the Schiava variety, even though, in this case, it is better to say with Schiava grapes. In fact, it should be noted this term defines three distinct varieties, all of which are allowed for the production of Lago di Caldaro wine. Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore, on the other hand, has as its protagonist one of the most interesting grapes of Sardinia – Bovale – capable of producing wines of considerable value and personality. Schiava and Bovale grapes are decidedly different varieties and their wines are equally different from every point of view, both enological and sensorial. In the first case, the finesse and elegance of the wines of Lago di Caldaro and the Schiava grapes, in the second case the power and character of Bovale expressed in the wines of what is the most significant area of Sardinia for wines produced with this grape: Campidano di Terralba in the provinces of Oristano and Southern Sardinia. It will therefore be a very interesting tasting by contrast, in which we will have the opportunity to compare two decidedly different and distant styles.

## Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore

The wine-growing area of Lago di Caldaro (Lake Caldaro) is one of the main representative ones of Trentino-Alto Adige wine production. This important area with *Denominazione d'Origine Controllata* (Denomination of Controlled Origin, DOC) is located around the lake of the same name and extends into the territories of the provinces of Bolzano and Trento, has a long history and here wines were produced as early as 500 BC. In this appellation the queen grape is Schiava, however – in this case – it is better to talk about the family of the Schiava grapes as it includes three distinct members: Schiava Grossa, Schiava Gentile and Schiava Grigia. Due to the bilingualism in force in South Tyrol (Alto Adige), this appellation is also known by the German name of *Kalterersee*, whereas – for the same reason – Schiava grapes are also known as *Vernatsch*, more specifically and respectively *Großvernatsch*, *Kleinvernatsch* and *Grauvernatsch*. For the sake of completeness, it should be noted that Schiava Gentile is also called *Schiava Piccola* (*Small Schiava*, *Kleinvernatsch*) or *Schiava Media* (*Medium Schiava*, *Mittlerer Vernatsch*). As for Schiava Grigia, it is usually considered as a distinct variety, despite its enological and organoleptic similarities with the other members of the “Schiava” family.

The origin of the name is not clear yet, since for some it derives from the method used to cultivate this vine in the past, that is tied to trees and poles (therefore, so to speak “*schiavizzate*”, *enslaved*), but also for the drastic pruning carried out with the aim of obtaining greater vigor and therefore better quality of the grapes. Furthermore, for others it would derive from the characteristic low-stump cultivation and “*enslaved*” in rows. Another theory would be the Slavic origin, introduced in these lands during the Lombard invasions, therefore Italianized in “*schiava*”. In accordance with its production disciplinary, this wine is produced for a minimum of 85% of Schiava Grossa, Schiava Gentile and Schiava Grigia grapes, alone or together. The remaining 15% can be represented by varieties allowed to cultivation in Trentino-Alto Adige. The disciplinary of Lago di Caldaro also provide for the styles *riserva*, *scelto*, *classico*, *classico riserva*, *classico superiore*, *classico superiore riserva*, *scelto classico*, *scelto classico riserva*, *scelto classico superiore* and *scelto classico superiore riserva*. The “*riserva*” styles must age for a minimum of two years, an operation often carried out in wooden containers.

## Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore

Sardinia is among the regions of Italy to boast the richest heritage of native varieties and, among them, a position of absolute importance certainly belongs to Bovale grape. Once used as a blending grape to give fuller structure to the wines of the island, in particular, to those produced with Cannonau and Monica grapes, today it is widely recognized as a grape of absolute importance in the rich viticultural panorama of Sardinia. Bovale finds its most significant expression in the *Denominazione d'Origine Controllata* (Denomination of Controlled Origin, DOC) of Campidano di Terralba – or simply, Terralba –

which territory extends between the provinces of Oristano and Southern Sardinia. In fact, it must be said that, despite Bovale is widespread throughout the region, Campidano di Terralba area is the only denomination in Sardinia providing for the use of Bovale as the prevalent variety. In accordance with its production disciplinary, in fact, Campidano di Terralba is produced with Bovale Sardo and/or Bovale Grande for at least 85%, while the remaining part can be made up of red berried grapes allowed for cultivation in Sardinia.

In this regard, it must be said that producers tend to make the wines of this territory with 100% Bovale, in particular to enhance the interesting qualities this grape expresses in this land. As far as history is concerned, the origin of Bovale is still unclear and uncertain today. It is supposed they are varieties introduced from Spain during the Aragonese dominion, distinguishing themselves in two specific varieties: Bovale Sardo – or simply, Bovale – and Bovale Grande. Genetic investigations on these two varieties – despite their name – have shown there is no relationship between them and therefore they are distinct varieties. It was also possible to highlight a certain similarity of Bovale Sardo with Cagnulari and Graciano varieties, while Bovale Grande seems to share characteristics of Carignano, Cariñena and Mazuela, proving, in this sense, their supposed Spanish origin. In accordance with the production disciplinary, Campidano di Terralba includes Superiore and Riserva styles, the latter aged for at least two years, a practice which is often carried out in wooden containers.

## The Tasting

Before starting this month's tasting by contrast, let's find the two bottles we will pour into the glasses. In this regard it must be said the search for Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore is relatively simple since it is a wine enjoying both good production and distribution. The purchase of Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore can be certainly more difficult, because – despite its enological prestige in the viticultural panorama of Sardinia – it is not very present on the shelves of large retailers, however a good



The color of Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore

wine shop will certainly be successful in finding a bottle of this interesting Sardinian wine. In both cases we will have to pay attention to the composition, since the respective disciplinary provide for the use of their primary grapes for a minimum of 85%. We will therefore make sure Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore is produced exclusively with the Schiava varieties, whereas Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore with the homonymous variety alone. The two bottles belong to the most recent vintage and the wines are poured into tasting glasses at a temperature of 18 °C (65 °F).

Let's pour Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore and Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore into our glasses and start this month's tasting by contrast. The first wine we will examine is the one from Trentino-Alto Adige, therefore, by tilting the glass over a white surface – a sheet of paper is enough – we observe the base in order to evaluate its color. We can observe a brilliant and intense ruby red color, furthermore – by placing an object in contrast between the glass and the white surface – we can notice a moderate transparency such as to allow the vision of the object. Let's now focus our attention towards the opening of the glass, where the thickness of the wine becomes thin, and let's evaluate the nuances: Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore confirms the ruby red color. Let's now pass to the evaluation of the appearance of Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore and, just like in the previous wine, we tilt the glass over the white surface. The color of the Sardinian wine is ruby red, decidedly more intense and darker than the Trentino-Alto Adige wine. The transparency of Bovale, compared to the previous wine, is decidedly lower and the object placed in contrast is hardly visible. The nuance of Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore confirms the ruby red color.

The aromas expressed by the wines produced with Schiava and Bovale grapes differ substantially in several aspects. Wines produced with Schiava grapes – such as Lago di Caldaro – are mainly characterized by the finesse and elegance of their aromas, in particular by the sensations of red pulp fruits and flowers. Among the main aromas in wines produced with Schiava grapes we find, as regards the sensations of fruits, the aromas of cherry, raspberry, plum, strawberry and blueberry. Furthermore, wines produced with Schiava grapes, and therefore also Lago di Caldaro, are often characterized by a pleasing almond scent. The world of flowers we find in these wines is mainly represented by cyclamen and violet. The olfactory profile of wines produced with Bovale is quite different and decidedly more powerful. The character, compared to the one expressed by Schiava, is decidedly more full and powerful, in which we recognize, as regards the sensations of fruits, aromas of black cherry, plum, blackberry and blueberry. The main floral perception of wines produced with Bovale is violet.

Let's resume our tasting by contrast and proceed with the analysis of the olfactory profiles of Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore and Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore. The first wine we examine, just like in the previous phase, is the one produced in Trentino-Alto Adige. By holding the glass in vertical position and without swirling, let's do the first smell in order to evaluate the opening, that is the identifying and primary aro-

mas. In Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore can be immediately recognized aromas of cherry, raspberry and plum, promptly followed by the scent of cyclamen and violet. After having swirled the glass, the Trentino-Alto Adige wine continues to give aromas reminiscent of fruit and, in particular, strawberry and blueberry. Furthermore, it can be perceived, clear and intense, the pleasing scent of almond. Let's now move on to the evaluation of the opening of Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore, proceeding with the first smell and holding the glass in vertical position, without swirling. From the glass are perceived intense aromas of black cherry, blueberry and blackberry, followed by the pleasing scent of violet. After having swirled the glass, the profile of the Sardinian wine is completed with plum, sometimes accompanied by raspberry and black currant.

The evaluation of the gustatory profiles is certainly the phase that highlights the greatest differences between Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore and Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore. Let's start with the evaluation of the attack, that is the initial gustatory sensations we perceive in the wine after the first sip. Just like in the previous phases, we proceed with the evaluation of Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore, and we therefore take a sip of this wine. In the mouth is immediately perceived a pleasing and moderate astringency, followed by the equally pleasing crispness given by acidity. The wine however has a very good balance thanks to the effect of alcohol. In the mouth we perceive good finesse and elegance, as well as flavors of cherry, raspberry and plum. Let's now pass to the evaluation of the attack of Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore by taking a sip of this wine from the glass. The gustatory difference with the Trentino-Alto Adige wine is evident: the attack of the Sardinian wine is decidedly more robust and also the astringency is more intense. Moreover, the perception of roundness and the effect of alcohol are both higher, while the crispness is decidedly lower. Finally, we can also perceive flavors of black cherry, blueberry and blackberry.

We have now reached the final phase of our tasting by contrast, consisting in the evaluation of the final sensations the wines leave in the mouth after swallowing, in particular the taste-olfactory persistence. The finish of Lago di Caldaro Classico Superiore is intense and in the mouth we continue to perceive pleasing sensations of crispness and moderate astringency, well supported by good elegance and finesse. In addition, we continue to perceive flavors of cherry, raspberry, plum and strawberry, sometimes almond as well. The sensorial differences of the two wines also continue in the final phase of the tasting. Campidano di Terralba Bovale Superiore – also characterized by good persistence – in fact leaves in the mouth a sensation of a fuller structure and astringency, with a more pronounced roundness and crispness of less intensity than the previous wine. In the mouth, finally, the Sardinian wine leaves clean and intense flavors of black cherry, blackberry and plum, often combined with blueberry.

## Wines of the Month

### Score legend

- ◇ Fair – ◇◇ Pretty Good – ◇◇◇ Good
- ◇◇◇◇ Very Good – ◇◇◇◇◇ Excellent
- ★ Wine that excels in its category
- 🌟 Good value wine

Prices are to be considered as indicative. Prices may vary according to the country or the shop where wines are bought



### Demetra Pinot Bianco Brut Nature Mirabella (Lombardy, Italy)

🌸 Pinot Bianco

Price: € 26.00

Score ◇◇◇◇ ★

- 👁️ Pale straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.
- 👂 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and bread crust followed by aromas of hawthorn, chamomile, broom, pineapple, pear, candied fruits, citron, honey, praline, linden and mineral.
- 👄 Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.
- 🍷 Persistent finish with flavors of apple, plum and praline.
- 📅 A small part of the base wine ferments in barrique. Refermented in bottle and aged on its lees for at least 24 months.
- 🍴 *Pasta with fish, Stewed white meat, Roasted fish, Fish soups*



**Franciacorta Brut Nature Demetra 2016**  
**Mirabella (Lombardy, Italy)**

Chardonnay (70%), Pinot Nero (20%), Pinot Bianco (10%)

Price: € 27.00

Score ☆

Pale straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of banana, plum and bread crust followed by aromas of acacia, hawthorn, citron, apple, pear, grapefruit, hazelnut, croissant, butter, praline and honey.

Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Persistent finish with flavors of banana, plum and citron.

A small part of the base wine ferments in barrique. Referred in bottle and aged in its lees for at least 60 months.

*Pasta with fish, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Fish soups, Mushroom soups*



**Calinverno 2017**  
**Monte Zovo (Veneto, Italy)**

Corvina, Corvinone (70%), Rondinella (20%), Cabernet Sauvignon (5%), Croatina (5%)

Price: € 23.90

Score ☆

Deep ruby red and nuances of garnet red, little transparency.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of plum, black cherry and blackberry followed by aromas of dried violet, blueberry, cocoa, tobacco, licorice, leather, mace, vanilla and menthol.

Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Persistent finish with flavors of plum, black cherry and blackberry.

24 months in barrique and cask, 12 months in bottle.

*Game, Roasted meat, Stewed and braised meat, Hard cheese*



**MONTE ZOVO**  
 AZIENDA AGRICOLA

**Amarone della Valpolicella 2017**  
**Monte Zovo (Veneto, Italy)**

Corvina (60%), Corvinone (30%), Rondinella (10%)

Price: € 38.60

Score ☆

Deep ruby red and nuances of garnet red, little transparency.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of blackberry, plum and dried violet followed by aromas of black cherry macerated in alcohol, blueberry, chocolate, tamarind, tobacco, cinnamon, licorice, leather, mace, caramel, vanilla and menthol.

Properly tannic attack and however balanced by alcohol, full body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Very persistent finish with long flavors of blackberry, plum and black cherry macerated in alcohol.

24 months in cask and barrique, 6 months in steel tanks, at least 12 months in bottle.

*Game, Roasted meat, Stewed and braised meat with mushrooms, Hard cheese*



**Bianco di Custoza Superiore Campo del Selese 2020**  
**Albino Piona (Veneto, Italy)**

Garganega (40%), Trebbiano di Soave (30%), Trebbianello di Soave (15%), Pinot Bianco, Incrocio Manzoni 6.0.13 (15%)

Price: € 20.00

Score

Brilliant straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and citrus fruits followed by aromas of hawthorn, broom, pineapple, pear, medlar, banana, honey, almond, vanilla and mineral.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Persistent finish with flavors of apple, plum and pineapple.

Part of the Garganega ferments in barrique. 12 months in steel tanks.

*Stuffed pasta with mushrooms, Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Legume soups*



**Bianco di Custoza Crea 2019**  
**Albino Piona (Veneto, Italy)**

Garganega (40%), Trebbiano di Soave (30%), Trebbianello di Soave (15%), Incrocio Manzoni 6.0.13 (15%)

Price: € 22.00

Score

Intense golden yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, plum and peach followed by aromas of hawthorn, broom, pineapple, pear, medlar, grapefruit, citrus fruit peel, honey, almond and vanilla.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, pleasing roundness.

Persistent finish with flavors of plum, apple and peach.

16 months in barrique.

*Stuffed pasta with mushrooms, Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Stewed white meat, Cheese*



**Valdobbiadene Extra Dry Rive di Soligo Mas de Fer**  
**2021**  
**Andreola (Veneto, Italy)**

Glera

Price: € 11.80

Score

Intense greenish yellow and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of pear, apricot and wisteria followed by aromas of acacia, hawthorn, broom, tangerine, apple, pineapple, mango, melon, fern and almond.

Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, light body, intense flavors, pleasing sweetness.

Persistent finish with flavors of pear, apricot and tangerine.

Produced with the Charmat method.

*Aperitifs, Crustacean and vegetable appetizers, Risotto with crustaceans and vegetables, Sauteed fish*





**Valdobbiadene Brut Rive del Refrontolo Col del Forno  
2021**  
Andreola (Veneto, Italy)


 Glera


Price: € 11.80


Score  


 Intense greenish yellow and nuances of greenish yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of pear, peach and wisteria followed by aromas of acacia, broom, green apple, tangerine, kiwi, banana, pineapple, mango, medlar and dill.

 Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, light body, intense flavors, agreeable.


 Very persistent finish with long flavors of pear, peach and green apple.

 Produced with the Charmat method.

 *Aperitifs, Fish appetizers, Pasta and risotto with fish and crustaceans, Sauteed fish, Dairy products, Eggs*





**Piemonte Moscato Secco Pasucrà 2021**  
Forteto della Luja (Piedmont, Italy)


 Moscato Bianco


Price: € 9.80


Score  


 Brilliant golden yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent.

 Intense, clean, pleasing and refined, starts with hints of grape, peach and white rose followed by aromas of broom, lavender, lychee, pear, apple, citrus fruits, banana and sage.

 Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Persistent finish with flavors of grape, peach and lychee.

 Aged in steel tanks.

 *Pasta and risotto with crustaceans and mushrooms, Broiled crustaceans, Sauteed white meat with mushrooms*





**Soldati La Scolca Brut Millesimato Riserva d'Antan  
2010**  
La Scolca (Piedmont, Italy)


 Cortese


Price: € 70.00


Score 


 Brilliant golden yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

 Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, orange and bread crust followed by aromas of hawthorn, broom, pear, peach, plum, hazelnut, mango, pineapple, almond, honey, croissant and butter.

 Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

 Very persistent finish with long flavors of apple, orange and almond.

 Refermented in bottle and aged in its lees for at about 10 years.

 *Stuffed pasta with fish and mushrooms, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat, Stewed white meat*





**La Scolca d'Antan 2008**  
La Scolca (Piedmont, Italy)

Cortese

Price: € 69.00

Score

Intense straw yellow and nuances of golden yellow, very transparent.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of quince, plum and almond followed by aromas of hawthorn, bread crust, grapefruit, bergamot, pear jam, linden, walnut husk, honey, croissant, rosemary, butter and flint.

Crisp attack and however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Very persistent finish with flavors of plum, quince and almond.

Aged in steel tanks.

*Stuffed pasta with fish, Roasted white meat, Roasted fish, Mushroom soups, Cheese*



**Franciacorta Satèn Brut 2018**  
Ricci Curbastro (Lombardy, Italy)

Chardonnay

Price: € 30.00

Score

Pale straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of banana, acacia and bread crust followed by aromas of hawthorn, apple, grapefruit, pear, citron, pineapple, butter, honey, croissant and praline.

Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Persistent finish with flavors of apple, banana and grapefruit.

Referred in bottle and aged on its lees for at least 40 months.

*Pasta and risotto with fish and crustaceans, Sauteed white meat, Sauteed crustaceans, Roasted fish*



**Franciacorta Dosaggio Zero Gualberto 2012**  
Ricci Curbastro (Lombardy, Italy)

Pinot Nero (65%), Chardonnay (35%)

Price: € 41.00

Score

Intense straw yellow and nuances of straw yellow, very transparent, fine and persistent perlage.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant, starts with hints of apple, banana and bread crust followed by aromas of hawthorn, grapefruit, melon, pineapple, peach, tangerine, honey, croissant, praline, butter, vanilla and mineral.

Effervescent and crisp attack, however balanced by alcohol, good body, intense flavors, agreeable.

Very persistent finish with long flavors of apple, banana and grapefruit.

A small part of the base wine ferments in barrique. Referred in bottle and aged in its lees for at least 80 months.

*Pasta with fish and mushrooms, Roasted fish, Roasted white meat,*

Stewed fish with mushrooms

EVENTS

## News

In this column are published news and information about events concerning the world of wine and food. Whoever is interested in publishing this kind of information can send us a mail to the address [Events@DiWineTaste.com](mailto:Events@DiWineTaste.com).



NOT JUST WINE

## Aquavitae

Review of Grappa, Distillates and Brandy



**Grappa XO**  
Sibona (Piedmont, Italy)

Pomace of Nebbiolo and Barbera

Price: € 30.00 - 50cl

Score

Brilliant amber yellow, limpid and crystalline.

Intense, clean, pleasing, refined and elegant with aromas of plum, cherry, raspberry, violet, vanilla, tobacco, chocolate, honey, date and hazelnut with almost imperceptible alcohol pungency.

Intense flavors with perceptible alcohol pungency which tends to dissolve rapidly, pleasing roundness, balanced sweetness.

Very persistent finish with long flavors of plum, cherry, honey and date.

Batch distillation in bain-marie alembic. Aged for more than 6 years in casks.

## Wine Guide Parade

June 2022

The best 15 wines reviewed in our Guide and voted by DiWineTaste readers

Rank	Wine, Producer	Votes
1	Morrone 2018, Alois	12470
2	Monferrato Rosso Di.Vino 2019, Franco Mondo	11539
3	Casavecchia di Pontelatone Riserva Trebulanum 2017, Alois	11441
4	Assoluto 2019, Pala	10779
5	S'Arai 2019, Pala	10773
6	Chianti Colli Senesi 2019, Fattoria di Castel Pietraio	10418
7	Alto Adige Chardonnay Lafoa 2020, Cantina Colterenzio	10102
8	Sindrada 2020, Fattoria di Castel Pietraio	10074
9	Loccareto 2020, Tenuta Casabianca	9895
10	Chianti Colli Senesi Riserva Belsedere 2018, Tenuta Casabianca	9804
11	Essentija 2019, Pala	9667
12	Cannonau di Sardegna I Fiori 2020, Pala	9533
13	Cleo 2018, Tenuta Casabianca	9312
14	Chianti Colli Senesi Riserva 2019, Tenuta Casabianca	9172
15	Silenzi Rosso 2019, Pala	8673